



Governor Appoints Board Members

Governor Schweitzer appointed three new members to the Montana Aeronautics Board effective January 1, 2007. Robert Buckles, commercial airlines representative; A. Christopher Edwards, fixed base operator representative; and Fred Lark, public representative. Charles "Chuck" Manning, Lakeside, was reappointed to the board as aviation education representative.

Robert Buckles is originally from Poplar. After high school, he attended vo-tech and got his A&P mechanic's license and his private pilot's license. After graduating from MSU, Robert began flight instructing and flying air taxi around the state working for Dallas Aero in Poplar and Lynch Flying Service in Billings. In 1985 he was hired by American Airlines based in Dallas and upgraded to Captain in 1991. Robert currently has over 18,000 hours flying. He holds a current CFII. Robert flies a Pilatus PC12 part time. He owns a 1945 Taylorcraft and a 1958 Cessna 182. He lives in Bozeman with his wife, Kathryn, and commutes to Dallas twice a month to fly international to Asia and Europe. Robert feels it's a great honor to be on the Aeronautics Board.

Chris Edwards is a third generation Montanan. He attended Northwest Community College in Powell, Wyo., earned a B.A in Communications from the University of Montana (2001), and a J.D. from U of M School of Law (2005). He works for Edwards Jet Center and Edwards Law Firm in Billings. He is engaged to be married in August to Kelly La Sala. Chris is honored to serve on the Montana Aeronautics Board as he believes that having safe, accessible and accommodating air travel throughout Montana is essential for the safety of our citizens and visitors, as well as, Montana's continued economic growth.

Fred Lark has been flying and living in Lewistown since 1973, where he is President and General Manager of KXLO-KLCM Radio and his consultant business, Lark Unlimited Inc. Lark holds a private certificate with multi-engine land and instrument ratings and has accumulated over 4,000 hours flying all of North America and the Caribbean. Lark serves on the Lewistown Airport Board of Commissioners (15 years) and previously served on the Montana Aeronautics Board under the Schwenden administration. Lark is a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (35 years) and has assisted the AOPA in his consultant capacity being the designated Airport Support Network liaison for the Lewistown/Fergus County airports(12 years).

In addition to welcoming its new members to the board, the MDT Aeronautics Division gives a big thank you to John Rabenberg and Craig Denney, eight-year members and Lonnie Leslie, four year member. Besides the great job they did on the board, they have also been big supporters of the Division throughout the years. *Not pictured is Robert Buckles.*



Christopher Edwards



Fred Lark

Administrator's Column

Condolences: It is with great sorrow that sympathy is extended to three Great Falls families in the loss of their loved ones. A Mercy Flight crew was killed enroute from Great Falls to Bozeman. The King Air 200 was found 15 miles northwest of Gallatin Field. Pilot Vince Krol, registered nurse Darcy Dengel and paramedic Paul Erickson were on board the flight.

New this year: Make plans to attend the general session being conducted at the aviation conference. The session will be held on Thursday, March 1 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. and will feature Catherine (Kate) Lang, deputy associate administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Office of Airports; Lisa Piccione, senior vice-president of government affairs for the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA); and Travis Vallin, administrator of Colorado Aeronautics Division and chairman of the National Association of State Officials (NASAO). Montana is very fortunate to have this distinguished panel join our conference to speak on the President's proposed budget for FAA reauthorization that has just been released. Hope to see you there.

Congratulations: to Ron Mercer and Jeff Wadekamper of the Helena Regional Airport. Ron and Jeff were award winners that were recognized by the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce at its annual banquet. Ron was selected the Business Person of the Year for seeing through the airport's recent expansion as well as his work with Hometown Helena, weekly meetings of business and civic leaders that help keep all the players in town on the same page. Jeff was honored as the 2006 Hospitality Hero. He always has a warm welcome and sincere smile when he greets you. Well deserved guys.

Legislative update: The three bills requested by the MDT Aeronautics Division are quickly moving through the legislature. SB122 provides for lease terms on state airports to be extended from the current 10 years to 40 years; SB

126 eliminates the requirement that MDT set liability insurance rates for commercial air carriers and that proof of insurance be provided to MDT; and SB 127 requires that 90 percent of the aircraft registration fees collected be deposited immediately into the general fund rather than two times each year as required under current law. The bills were met with no opposition in the House and have been scheduled for hearing in the Senate on February 15. Representative Jim Keane, HD 75, Butte is sponsoring all three bills.

New airline service announcements: It's the second month of the year and once again I'm happy to report on new/expanded air service at Montana airports. Allegiant Air announced new non-stop service between **Great Falls** and Las Vegas beginning March 9. The flights will operate twice weekly. United Express has announced the following summer flights (June 7 – Sept. 5) to Chicago: **Bozeman** - two non-stops, daily (one operates year-round); **Billings** - one non-stop, daily; **Missoula** one non-stop; **Kalispell** twice weekly (Saturday/Sunday). **Kalispell** will also begin twice daily, non-stop jet service to Denver beginning June 7. **Billings** will receive twice daily, year round service this spring to Denver with a third daily flight for the summer. Exciting times.

Backcountry airstrip legislation: Rep. Denny Rehberg introduced legislation that would require state approval before a backcountry airstrip on federal land could be closed. The legislation was prompted by concerns over possible closures of airstrips in the Missouri River Breaks. "The Backcountry Landing Strip Access Act would give the public and the state of Montana a seat at the table when closures of landing strips are discussed," said Rep. Rehberg. The legislation also would direct the U.S. secretaries of agriculture and interior to come up with a nationwide policy governing general aviation on federal lands. Federal agencies would have to consult with state aviation officials to ensure airstrips are maintained.



Montana and the Sky

Department of Transportation

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

Jim Lynch, Director

Official monthly publication of the
Aeronautics Division

Telephone - (406) 444-2506

Fax - (406) 444-2519

P.O. Box 200507

Helena, MT 59620-0507

www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/

Debbie K. Alke, Administrator

Aeronautics Board

Tricia McKenna, Chairman

Robert Buckles, Member

A. Christopher Edwards, Member

William (Bill) Hunt, Jr., Member

Fred Lark, Member

Fred Leistiko, Member

Roger Lincoln, Member

Chuck Manning, Member

Ted Schye, Member

Montana and the Sky

Is published monthly

In the interest of aviation in the
State of Montana.

Third Class postage paid at
Helena, Montana 59604

Editor: Patty Kautz

Calendar

February 16-17 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506.

February 18 - Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House – tours, flights and questions answered for prospective students and parents. Call (406) 657-1060 for more information.

March 1-3 – Montana Aviation Conference, Hilton Inn, Missoula. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506 or go to www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/.

March 18 - Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House – tours, flights and questions answered for prospective students and parents. Call (406) 657-1060 for more information.

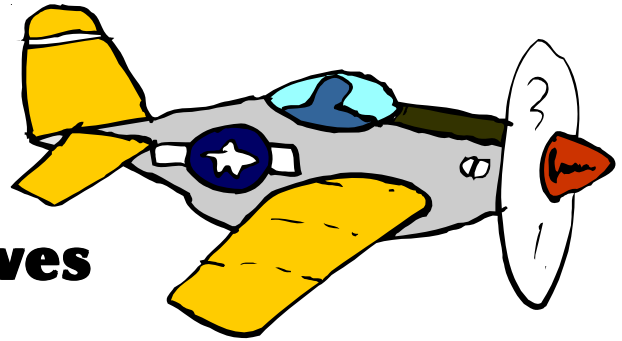
May 24 – Aviation Maintenance Technician Day

June 9 – Lewistown Airport breakfast and static display - 8 a.m.. For further information, phone Jerry Moline (406) 350-3264.

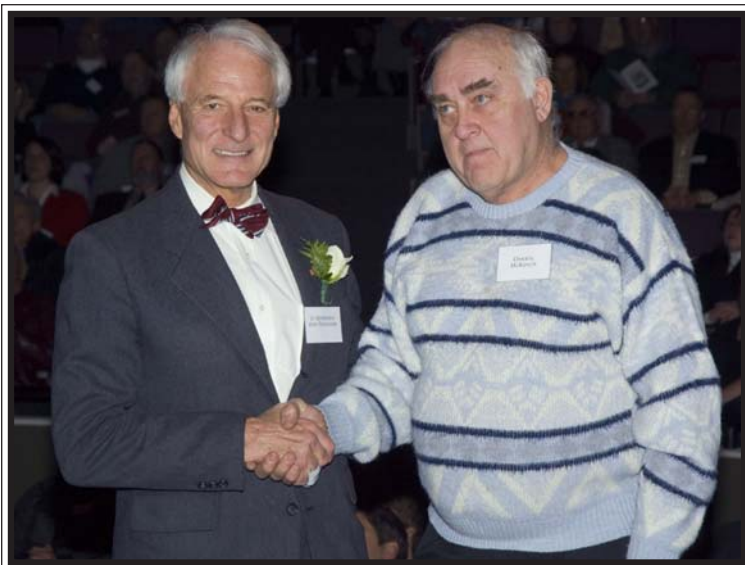
June 17 – Father's Day Fly In breakfast, Fort Peck Airport. For further information, phone Lanny Hanson at (406) 263-1154.

June 23 – New Plains Airport Fly-In Breakfast, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. For further information, phone Randy Garrison at (406) 826-3605 or (406) 826-3055.

July 28-29—Bozeman Air Show featuring the Blue Angels along with MiG Fury Fighters, World Parabolic Swoop Team, Greg Poe, Kent Pietsch and Jim Pietz.



Lewistown Airport Receives Historical Recognition



The Lewistown Airport was honored in a ceremony held at the Myrna Loy Center in Helena on January 17. The airport was recognized as the first airport in the US to be listed as a complete historical site. Pictured is Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger (l) and Darrell MacKenzie, chairman of the Lewistown Airport Board.

Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic - A Valuable Lesson

By Jeanne MacPherson, Bureau Chief, Safety and Education

Why do we attend the MDT Aeronautics Division Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic? Because proper preparation can save our lives! The more that survival skills have been practiced the better the chance that they will be readily available when an emergency happens. In our early training and during flight reviews, we practice emergency procedures so that the correct response is at the forefront of managing the emergency situation. The Winter Survival Clinic exists to help pilots learn and practice the life-saving skills that may be necessary immediately after they successfully accomplish an emergency landing in remote areas.

The average survival scenario lasts about 72 hours. Skip Stoffel and Ralph Wilfong of the Emergency Response International (ERI), experts in the field of survival, echoed that survival is all about “buying some time.” The essentials to “buying some time” toward survival are first and foremost a positive mental attitude (PMA), the ability to stay warm and dry (shelter and clothing), the ability to make a fire, to provide help (first-aid and a survival kit) and the ability to attract help (signaling).

About half of the 2007 participants are returning winter survivalist working at improving their chances of survival and becoming more self-reliant. The other half of our hardy students were “rookies.” The group represented a wide variety of aviation-related interests including private pilots, aeromedical personnel and USFS firefighters.

We were especially honored this year that Debbi Surratt Myers participated in the entire clinic. The MDT Aeronautics Division Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic is supported



Amber Bjorndal (l) and with her shelter co-designer Debbi Surratt Myers both from Cooke City made a shelter using natural materials and a tarp.



Bob Snyder and sons Zack and Colt Carver of Ronan put finishing touches on their snow shelter at the Lincoln Airport.



Dianne Carlson a flight nurse from Frenchtown feels that the skills she has learned and practices add to her self-confidence as she flies routinely over the mountains.

and in part funded by Debbi. Debbi lost her husband, Terry Surratt, after an aircraft accident in 1992. Terry Surratt survived the accident only to die of exposure to the cold environment. The leading cause of death in outdoor enthusiasts is hypothermia.

We would like to thank Debbi Surratt Myers, Skip Stoffel, Ralph Wilfong, the Army National Guard for the use of their facilities and Ponder' Roses in Lincoln, Mont. for a great Sunday morning breakfast. Kudos to Cathy Murphy for the awesome “survival cookies”, which were devoured during the evening training.

Company Receives Excellence Award for Lincoln Airport Project



Helena Sand and Gravel received an Excellence Award for the Best Paving Smoothness/Volumetric Density project for the firm's work on the Lincoln Airport improvements. Criteria for the award included meeting the project timeframe, scope of work, difficulty and uniqueness of the project, safety and aesthetically pleasing and environmental aspects of the project. The award was presented by MDT Director Jim Lynch at the Montana Contractors' Association Annual Convention. Congratulations to Helena Sand and Gravel for a job well done. Pictured (l-r) are Jim Lynch; Nick Miller, Project Manager and Van Hildreth, Project Manager.

In Memory of Adrien "Shorty" R. Long

Adrien "Shorty" R. Long, age 82, of Wolf Point, passed away of natural causes December 30, 2006, at Faith Lutheran Home.

Shorty was born Feb. 21, 1924, in Oswego, to Clinton and Anna (Aadson) Long. Shorty lived on the farm until moving to the airport addition in Wolf Point in 1961. He attended country school and then later attended High School in Wolf Point.

Shorty was a farmer and crop duster as well as an air taxi operator for many years. He held the first air taxi certificate in the Rocky Mountain Region of the FAA. He was on the State Hail board, exalted ruler for the Elks Club, Airport Manager, Toastmaster, President of the Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Flying Farmers. He was the director of Farmers Union for 25 years and a member of First Lutheran Church in Wolf Point.

He loved motorcycles, airplanes, his computers, new technology and making ropes for his grandchildren.

Adrien is survived by his wife, Betty Long of Wolf Point; children Loretta (Clyde) Eddy of Kansas City, Mo., Arlie (Barbara) Long of Kilgore, Texas, Myron (Mary) Long of Wolf Point, Audrey (Lee) Pipal of Wolf Point, Laurie Thomas of Manhattan and Cindy (Bob) Ballard of Bozeman; 21 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; sisters, Verine Hansen, Doris Hanks and Jenice Davis, all of Wolf Point. He is preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and one sister.

Our thoughts and sympathy are with the Long family.

Go With The Flow - Flying and Air Flow

By Max M. Murphy, Aviation Support Officer

If you are a pilot of any craft that holds you in the air for an amount of time, you need to have at least a basic understanding of air, air flow, air currents and its influence on the aircraft. Air flow is more than air flowing over the wings of the aircraft to create lift.

Even though one may be in an aircraft that has a high lift factor, a pilot still needs to be cautious about flying where cumulous clouds are building into cumulonimbus (or thunderstorm clouds) and when flying near the lee side of mountains as well, when it's windy. This is because the aircraft will react to the erratic air movement of forming clouds and to air flow changes resulting from changes in topography.

I obtained my Glider rating after receiving my Private, Instrument and Commercial ratings. I was amazed how little I understood about the attributes of air before I received Glider instruction. I have rarely flown a glider since my check-ride, but every time I am in the air my piloting decisions are impacted by the terrain I am flying over, the weather and the effect those conditions are having on air flow.

This is not written as instruction on air flow, but to encourage the flying community to learn more about the impact that air has on your aircraft. A key to being a good pilot is to always be a learning pilot!

Montana Aviation Conference

March 1-3 – Missoula

Hilton Garden Inn – (406) 532-5300



Mail Registration Form & Payment to:
MDT Aeronautics Division - Attn: Patty Kautz
PO Box 200507 - Helena, MT 59620-0507
Phone (406) 444-2506 – Fax (406) 444-2519
Email: pkautz@mt.gov

Save time: register online for the Conference at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/

Names of Participant(s) (for badges): _____

Aviation Organization Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Register Early and SAVE!

EARLY REGISTRATION: BY FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Takeoff to Landing Package	_____ @ \$120/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & all meals)	_____ @ \$230/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____

-OR- Registration Fee	_____ @ \$60/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & <u>free</u> meals – see note below)	_____ @ \$115/FAMILY	\$ _____

Thursday Luncheon	_____ @ \$18/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	_____ @ \$18/EACH	\$ _____
**Friday Dinner/Dance	_____ @ FREE	\$ _____
**Saturday Luncheon	_____ @ FREE	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	_____ @ \$28	\$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

GENERAL REGISTRATION: AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Takeoff to Landing Package	_____ @ \$130/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & all meals)	_____ @ \$250/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____

-OR- Registration Fee	_____ @ \$70/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & <u>free</u> meals – see note below)	_____ @ \$135/FAMILY	\$ _____

Thursday Luncheon	_____ @ \$18/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	_____ @ \$18/EACH	\$ _____
**Friday Dinner/Dance	_____ @ FREE	\$ _____
**Saturday Luncheon	_____ @ FREE	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	_____ @ \$28	\$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

****PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE FREE FRIDAY DINNER/DANCE AND FREE SATURDAY LUNCHEON WITH NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED. PERSON/SPOUSE AND FAMILY RATE INCLUDES 2 DINNER/DANCE AND 2 SATURDAY LUNCH TICKETS – ADDITIONAL TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED - \$25.00 DINNER/DANCE AND \$18.00 SATURDAY LUNCHEON. TO ASSURE ADEQUATE MEAL COUNT IF NO INDICATION IS MADE AS TO NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED NO TICKETS WILL BE RESERVED.**

Refund Policy: Full refunds for cancellations will be given until February 1, 2007. From February 1 through February 23, the registration fee less \$50 will be refunded. **After February 23**, no refunds will be given. If you cannot attend, you may transfer your registration to another person in the same registration category.

Conference Committee Wraps Up Planning - Let the fun begin!

The 2007 Montana Aviation Conference is drawing near and this year's exciting program is something you won't want to miss. On Thursday, March 1 the teacher workshop "Education Takes Flight" begins with instructor Sherry Knight Rossiter, Ph.D., who has a passion for education and knows how to make learning fun. Also on Thursday, a general session, "State of the Industry: Key Challenges, Key Opportunities," will be held from 9:30 – 11 a.m. Catherine Lang, deputy associate administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration Office of Airports; Lisa Piccione, senior vice-president of government affairs for the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA); and Travis Vallin, administrator of Colorado Aeronautics Division and chairman of the National Association of State Officials (NASAO) will head this session talking about the President's proposed budget for FAA reauthorization. You won't want to miss this exciting discussion.

The kick-off luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. with John Kounis, editor of Pilot Getaways Magazine, talking on "Fun Places to Fly in the American West." John has also offered to stay for the entire conference and will be conducting concurrent sessions on "Flying in Europe" and "African Aerial Safari." Thursday afternoon Kalene Yanamura, deputy regional administrator of the FAA Northwest Mountain Regional, will hold an FAA Open Forum. That afternoon will consist of more concurrent sessions with speakers from Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, United States Forest Service and Customs Border Protection, just to name a few. Thursday will wind down with Exhibitor Awards and a cocktail hour sponsored by our friends at City Service Valcon.

Friday, the Aircraft Mechanics Refresher Seminar and IA Renewal will begin along with more exciting concurrent sessions, including Mike Busch from Cirrus Design Corporation, who will be speaking that afternoon on "Aircraft Accident Site Hazard Awareness for First Responders" a must see for airport managers, firefighters and any other first responders. The Awards Luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. That afternoon beginning at 1:30, a special spouse/guest tour of the University of Montana/ Division of Biological Sciences, Bee Research Center will be offered. The center studies and trains bees to detect radiation, chemicals, heavy metals and explosive landmines. Beginning at 4 p.m., participants will get a chance to visit the static display, smokejumper base tour and tour the Museum of Mountain Flying. That evening, in true Missoula "Griz" style, a Tailgate Buffet dinner will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn with entertainment by the world renowned "Singing Sons of Beaches."

On Saturday the mechanics will be back in session along with more exciting concurrent sessions. A box lunch is held in the exhibit area where thousands of dollars in prizes are awarded to conference participants. The MDT Aeronautics Division will offer a showcase beginning at 5:30 p.m., showing off the many accomplishments they have made. That evening John Maclean is the featured speaker at the banquet talking on, "The Air War Over the Thirtymile Fire."

A complete program is listed on our website at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/ or phone our office at (406) 444-2506 for further information. Unfortunately the conference room block is full at the Hilton Garden Inn. Rooms are still available there - but not at the conference rate. Phone (406) 532-5300 for reservations or try the other hotels within walking distance: Comfort Inn (406) 542-0888; Courtyard by Marriott (406) 549-5260; Hampton Inn (406) 549-1800; or Super 8 (406) 549-1199. When making reservations, reference Montana Aviation Conference.

A registration form is included on page 6 of the newsletter or register and pay online at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/. Dollar Rent a Car is the official sponsor of the Montana Aviation Conference and will be offering excellent rates to conference participants. Visit their website at www.montanadollar.com or phone (406) 542-2311 for reservations, reference Montana Aviation Conference.

Hope to see you there!

Aviator Honored 95 Years after Flying Feat

It took 95 years, but Cromwell Dixon will finally have his name on a street sign in the city he used to make history.

When Costco opened its doors near the Helena Regional Airport in November motorists traveled Cromwell Dixon Way, named in memory of the kid who put Montana on the aviation map long before Charles Lindberg and Amelia Earhart flew into the city.

"Cromwell is pretty prominent in my memory," said Ron Mercer, manager of the Helena Regional Airport. "We've always thought highly of him, and when we thought about naming that road, we wanted it aviation related."

The road is as short as the pilot's abbreviated life. Three days after Dixon conquered the Continental Divide in September 1911, making aviation history, he crashed and died in Spokane, Washington.

Mechanics Seminar and IA Renewal Offered During Aviation Conference

The MDT Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the 2007 Mechanics Seminar and IA renewal will once again be held in conjunction with the annual Montana Aviation conference in Missoula. The dates for the conference are March 1-3. The Mechanics Seminar will start on Friday, March 2 and continue through Saturday, March 3.

Six hours of training on Friday will be offered and eight hours of training will be offered on Saturday. This works well for those mechanics only wanting to attend on Saturday, but still need training to update their IA for renewal.

Tentative Speakers include, Teledyne Continental Motors – Loren Lemen; Colorado Classic Aircraft – Carol Leyner; Engine Components Inc.-Tim Morland; Acorn Welding Ltd. – Don Hrabec; Northwest Propeller – Dick Jacob; Champion Aviation Products – Dick Johnson; Hoffman Pilots Center – Fred Workley; Landmark Aviation, Garret Engines – Ray Hartley; Helena FSDO.

Mechanics attending this year's seminar will be required to register for the Aviation Conference. The registration fee will be \$70. Registration includes all concurrent sessions, morning and afternoon coffee breaks with snacks, Friday night dinner and Saturday luncheon. If only attending the 8-hour Saturday session, a \$20 day pass is available. See the registration form on page 6 of the newsletter. Make plans now to attend, to discuss and learn the latest in aircraft maintenance.

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696. MDT produces 2,700 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,053. This includes \$700 for postage.

**Happy
Valentines
DAY!**

Aeronautics Division
Montana Department of Transportation

2630 Airport Road
PO Box 200507
Helena, Montana 59620-0507

Montana Department of Transportation



serving you with pride

February 2007

Pre-Sort Standard
US Postage Paid
Helena, MT 59620
Permit No. 141